

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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DEPT PASS HUD FOR HANCOCK

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TGEN, UR, US
SUBJECT: US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT: CONSTRUCTION IN
SEVERE CLIMATES (10.05)

REF: (A) STATE 48342, (B) STATE 13809

1. ON MARCH 16 EMBOFF ASKED TARENT'YEV OF GOSSTROY WHEN
US COULD EXPECT SOVIET RESPONSE TO LETTERS CONTAINED IN
REFTELS. TARENT'YEV SAID SOVIET RESPONSES HAD BEEN
DELAYED BY IVANOV'S "ILLNESS", BUT PROMISED REPLIES ASAP.
WITH RESPECT TO VISIT OF ASSUR AND MELLOR (REF A),
TARENT'YEV NOTED THAT SOVIETS ARE NOW PREPARING AN
ITINERARY WHICH WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE DESIRE OF US
SPECIALISTS TO VISIT INSTITUTES AND CONSTRUCTION SITES IN
SIBERIA. HOWEVER, TARENT'YEV COMMENTED THAT IT WOULD
PROBABLY BE NECESSARY TO POSTPONE ARRIVAL OF ASSUR AND
MELLOR FOR A WEEK OR TWO AFTER THE US-PROPOSED DATE OF
APRIL 26. EMBOFF NOTED THAT RECENT EMBASSY VISITOR TO
PERMAFROST INSTITUTE IN YAKUTSK HAD FOUND SENIOR OFFICIALS
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THERE UNAWARE OF PROPOSED ASSUR AND MELLOR VISIT. TARENT'-
YEV RESPONDED THAT HE DID NOT PERSONALLY DEAL WITH SUCH
TRIFLES BUT HE PROMISED THAT THE TWO US SPECIALISTS WOULD
RECEIVE AN ACCEPTABLE PROGRAM.

2. WITH RESPECT TO US PROPOSALS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF A
NEW PROJECT ON LARGE-SCALE CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

WHICH NOVIKOV AND GENERAL MORRIS DISCUSSED IN DECEMBER, 1977, (REF B), THERENT'YEV NOTED THAT MOST OF THE INSTALLATIONS THE US PROPOSED TO VISIT FELL OUTSIDE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NINE CONSTRUCTION MINISTRIES SUBORDINATED TO GOSSTROY AND WOULD THUS BE DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO INCLUDE IN THE PROGRAM. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUESTION, THERENT'YEV CONFIRMED THAT GOSSTROY DOES PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF HYDROELECTRIC POWER STATIONS. PRIMARY AUTHORITY, HOWEVER, REMAINS WITH THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND ELECTRIFICATION, WHICH THERENT'YEV CLAIMED HAD REJECTED GOSSTROY'S QUERIES ABOUT POSSIBLE COOPERATION BECAUSE IT ALREADY HAD A COOPERATIVE PROGRAM WITH CORPS OF ENGINEERS UNDER THE ENERGY AGREEMENT. THERENT'YEV CLAIMED THAT US PROPOSALS DUPLICATED WORK ON CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT DONE UNDER THE 10.01 WORKING GROUP AND ALSO EXPRESSED SOME IRRITATION WITH FACT THAT US PROPOSALS WENT BEYOND THE PROGRAM OF COOPERATION AGREED AT JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING IN SEPTEMBER 1977.

3. COMMENT: AMONG THE NINE CONSTRUCTION ORIENTED MINISTRIES SUBORDINATED TO GOSSTROY ARE A NUMBER WHICH SPECIALIZE IN VARIOUS ASPECTS OF ENERGY CONSTRUCTION, WHICH COULD PROVIDE AN INTERESTING ALTERNATIVE FOCUS FOR THE PROJECT. EMBOFF MENTIONED STUDY OF OIL AND GAS PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION AS ONE POSSIBLE SUBJECT FOR THE PROPOSED STUDY OF LARGE SCALE CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES. NOTING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT GOSSTROY CHAIRMAN NOVIKOV AND WORKING GROUP CHAIRMAN IVANOV HAD BACKGROUNDS IN ENERGY CONSTRUCTION, THERENT'YEV INDICATED THAT IT MIGHT BE THEORETICALLY POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE A PROGRAM IN THIS AREA; HOWEVER, HE DID NOT EVINCE ANY ENTHUSIASM FOR THE PROPOSAL. IN VIEW OF THE NEGATIVE AND BUREAUCRATIC ATTITUDE DISPLAYED BY THERENT'YEV, WE BELIEVE THAT PROSPECTS FOR MEANINGFUL COOPERATION ARE SLIM IN THIS AREA. IF PROMISED IVANOV REPLY TO REF B DOES NOT PROVIDE A SUBSTANTIVE AND BALANCE PROGRAM, IT WOULD PROBABLY BE BEST TO LET THE PROPOSAL DIE A NATURAL DEATH OR AT LEAST GO INTO A STATE OF SUSPENDED ANIMATION UNTIL IT CAN BE DISCUSSED IN MORE DETAIL AT THE 1978 JCM. TOON

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